

BACKGROUND PAPER

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Alaska Forget Me Not – Coalition for Service Members, Veterans and Families

Governor's Memorandum of Agreement Signing Event

1. The purpose of the Governor's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Signing Event is to recognize community accomplishments in support of the Coalition's purpose which is to educate, inform and link Alaskan communities, service members, veterans and their families to ensure a healthy future. The Coalition's focus is on statewide collaboration, community outreach and education and strategic partnerships that result in the identification of gaps in services, enhancement of service delivery, minimization of duplication of programs and maximization of existing funding on behalf of Service Members, Veterans and Families (SMVF) living in Alaska.
2. A combined effort of representatives from national and state initiatives such as the First Lady's Joining Forces, The National Guard's Joining Community Forces, the Governor's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and the Secretary of the Army's Army OneSource, have collaborated with local agencies, including the Veteran's Administration, Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs, State of Alaska Department of Health and Human Services, Alaska 2-1-1 and Alaska Area Health and Education Center to ensure that the military families living in Alaska have the support and services needed for healthy futures.
3. During the event Governor Parnell along with other statewide key stakeholders and military leaders, will sign a MOA in support of the continued efforts by the Coalition. The agenda will include personal testimony from SMVF on how partner agencies have helped them address the unique challenges and obstacles as a result of deployment, relocations, and reintegration as a result of their service. The agenda will also include a keynote speaker presenting Building Capacity in Your Community. After lunch, attendees may participate in a round table session on capacity building identifying and prioritizing successes, gaps, workable solutions, actions to take for attainable results. An activity will provide attendees the opportunity to present suggestions for the Coalition's top priorities.
4. Attendees will have the opportunity to continue working on Alaska's initiatives by collaborating with the Coalition Alliances. Those alliances consist of Behavioral Health/Health Alliance, Legal Alliance, Finance Alliance (Education & Employment), Faith & Service Alliance, Child and Youth Alliance and committees focused on specific issues such as suicide or workforce development. As the Coalition moves forward, the goal is to capitalize on existing programs connect SMVF with resources already in existence.